

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A reproducing apparatus comprising:

reproducing means for reproducing image data of  
a plurality of contents from a recording medium and  
5 writing the reproduced image data in a memory;

displaying means for displaying a plurality of  
representative images of the plurality of contents on  
the same screen;

selecting means for selecting a desired  
10 representative image from among the plurality of  
representative images displayed on the same screen;

reproduction instruction means for instructing  
reproduction start of the contents corresponding to  
the selected representative image;

15 reproduction processing means for reading out  
the image data stored in the memory and outputting  
the image data as reproduced image data; and

controlling means for controlling the  
reproducing means in response to selecting operation  
20 by the selecting means so that the reproducing means  
reproduces part of the image data of the contents  
concerning the selected representative image and  
writes the part of the image data in the memory, the  
controlling means further controlling the  
25 reproduction processing means in response to the  
reproduction start instruction by the reproduction  
instruction means so that the reproduction processing

means starts readout of the part of the image data from the memory.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
5 the image data includes a plurality of clips each showing series of moving images, and each of the plurality of contents includes each one of the clips.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
10 the image data includes a plurality of clips each showing series of moving images, and each of the plurality of contents includes the plurality of clips belonging to of the same group.

15 4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the displaying means generates a plurality of display hierarchies including the contents different from one another, and switches the representative image to be displayed, between the display hierarchies.

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5. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the image data includes the plurality of clips each showing series of moving images, the displaying means displays a first display hierarchy in which the one  
25 content includes the one clip, and a second display hierarchy in which the one content includes the plurality of clips belonging to the same group while

the first display hierarchy and the second display hierarchy are switched therebetween.

6. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein  
5 the controlling means controls the reproducing means in response to the switching among the display hierarchies displayed by the displaying means so that the reproducing means reproduces part of the image data of the content selected from among the plurality  
10 of contents of the display hierarchy newly displayed.

7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controlling means further controls the reproducing means in response to the reproduction  
15 start instruction so that the reproducing means starts the data reproduction of the data from the part of the image data in the selected contents and writes the data from the part of the image data in the memory.

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8. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controlling means controls the reproducing means in response to the selecting operation by the selecting means so that the reproducing means  
25 reproduces the image data according to an amount of data of the memory from a front end of the selected contents and writes the image data in the memory.

9. A reproducing apparatus comprising:

reproducing means for reproducing image data of  
a plurality of contents from a recording medium and  
writing the reproduced image data in a memory;

5        displaying means for displaying a plurality of  
representative images of the plurality of contents on  
the same screen;

selecting means for selecting a desired  
representative image from among in the plurality of  
10       representative images displayed on the same screen;

reproduction instruction means for instructing  
reproduction start of the contents corresponding to  
the selected representative image;

reproduction processing means for reading out  
15       the image data stored in the memory and outputting  
the image data as reproduced image data; and

controlling means for controlling the  
reproducing means so that the reproducing means  
reproduces part of each image data of the contents  
20       concerning the plurality of representative images  
displayed on the same screen by the displaying means  
and writes the part of each image data in the memory,  
the controlling means further controlling the  
reproduction processing means in response to the  
25       reproduction start instruction by the reproduction  
instruction means so that the reproduction processing  
means starts readout of part of the image data of the

contents concerning the selected representative  
images from the memory.

10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein  
5 the displaying means displays the representative  
image in response to a display instruction of the  
representative image, and the controlling means  
controls the reproducing means in response to the  
display instruction of the representative picture so  
10 that the reproducing means reproduces the part of  
each image data of the contents concerning the  
plurality of representative images displayed on the  
same screen by the displaying means and writes the  
part of each image data in the memory.

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11. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein  
the image data includes a plurality of clips each  
showing series of moving images, and each of the  
plurality of contents includes one of the clips.

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12. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein  
the image data includes a plurality of clips each  
showing series of moving images, and each of the  
plurality of contents includes the plurality of clips  
25 belonging to of the same group.

13. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein

the displaying means generates a plurality of display hierarchies including the contents different from one another, and switches the representative image to be displayed, between the display hierarchies.

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14. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the image data includes the plurality of clips each showing series of moving images, the displaying means displays a first display hierarchy in which the one  
10 content includes the one clip, and a second display hierarchy in which the one content includes the plurality of clips belonging to the same group while the first display hierarchy and the second display hierarchy are switched to therebetween.

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15. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the controlling means controls the reproducing means in response to the switching among the display hierarchies displayed by the displaying means so that  
20 the reproducing means reproduces the part of each image data of the plurality of contents of the display hierarchy newly displayed.

16. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein  
25 the controlling means further controls the reproducing means in response to the reproduction start instruction so that the reproducing means

starts the data reproduction of the data from the part of the image data in the selected contents and writes the data from the part of the image data in the memory.

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17. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the controlling means controls the reproducing means so that the reproducing means reproduces the image data of a predetermined amount which is decided on the basis of data capacity of the memory and the number of screens of the representative screen displayed on the same screen, from a front end of the contents concerning the plurality of representative images respectively and stores the image data of the predetermined amount in the memory.

18. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the displaying means displays the plurality of representative images in the form of a graphical user interface screen.

19. A reproducing apparatus comprising:  
reproducing means for reproducing image data from a recording medium and writing the reproduced image data in a memory;

displaying means for displaying on the same screen a plurality of representative images of a

plurality of predetermined reproduction start positions in the image data recorded on the recording medium;

selecting means for selecting a desired  
5 representative image from among the plurality of representative images displayed on the same screen;

reproduction instruction means for instructing start of reproduction from reproduction start position corresponding to the selected representative  
10 image;

reproduction processing means for reading out the image data stored in the memory and outputting the image data as reproduced image data; and

controlling means for controlling the  
15 reproducing means in response to selecting operation by the selecting means so that the reproducing means reproduces the image data of a predetermined amount from the reproduction start position corresponding to the selected representative image and writes the  
20 image data of the predetermined amount in the memory, the controlling means further controlling the reproduction processing means in response to the reproduction start instruction by the reproduction instruction means so that the reproduction processing  
25 means starts readout of the image data of the predetermined amount from the reproduction start position corresponding to the representative image



selected from the memory.

20. A reproducing apparatus comprising:

reproducing means for reproducing image data  
5 from a recording medium and writing the reproduced  
image data in a memory;

displaying means for displaying on the same  
screen reproduction start position information  
concerning a plurality of predetermined reproduction  
10 start positions in the image data recorded on the  
recording medium;

selecting means for selecting a desired  
reproduction start position in the plurality of  
reproduction start positions displayed by the  
15 displaying means;

reproduction instruction means for instructing  
start of reproduction of the image data from the  
selected reproduction start position;

reproduction processing means for reading out  
20 the image data stored in the memory and outputting  
the image data as reproduced image data; and

controlling means for controlling the  
reproducing means in response to selecting operation  
by the selecting means so that the reproducing means  
25 reproduces the image data of a predetermined amount  
from the selected reproduction start position and  
writes the image data of the predetermined amount in

the memory, the controlling means further controlling the reproduction processing means in response to the reproduction start instruction by the reproduction instruction means so that the reproduction processing means starts readout of the image data of the predetermined amount concerning the selected reproduction start position from the memory.

21. A reproducing apparatus comprising:
- 10 reproducing means for reproducing image data from a recording medium and writing the reproduced image data in a memory;
- displaying means for displaying on the same screen a plurality of representative images
- 15 corresponding to a plurality of predetermined reproduction start positions in the image data recorded on the recording medium;
- selecting means for selecting a desired representative image from among the plurality of
- 20 representative images displayed on the same screen;
- reproduction instruction means for instructing start of reproduction from reproduction start position corresponding to the selected representative image;
- 25 reproduction processing means for reading out the image data stored in the memory and outputting the image data as reproduced image data; and

controlling means for controlling the  
reproducing means so that the reproducing means  
reproduces part of image data of each of the contents  
concerning the plurality of representative pictures  
5 displayed on the same screen by the displaying means  
and writes the part of each image data in the memory,  
the controlling means further controlling the  
reproduction processing means in response to the  
reproduction start instruction by the reproduction  
10 instruction means so that the reproduction processing  
means starts readout of part of the image data of the  
contents corresponding to the selected representative  
image from the memory.

15 22. A reproducing apparatus comprising:  
reproducing means for reproducing image data  
from a recording medium and writing the reproduced  
image data in a memory;  
displaying means for displaying reproduction  
20 start position information concerning a plurality of  
predetermined reproduction start positions in the  
image data recorded on the recording medium on the  
same screen;  
selecting means for selecting a desired  
25 reproduction start position from among the plurality  
of reproduction start positions displayed by the  
displaying means;

reproduction instruction means for instructing  
start of reproduction of the image data from the  
selected reproduction start position;

reproduction processing means for reading out  
5 the image data stored in the memory and outputting  
the image data as reproduced image data; and

controlling means for controlling the  
reproducing means so that the reproducing means  
reproduces the image data of a predetermined amount  
10 from each of the plurality of predetermined  
reproduction start positions and writes the image  
data of the predetermined amount in the memory, the  
controlling means further controlling the  
reproduction processing means in response to the  
15 reproduction start instruction by the reproduction  
instruction means so that the reproduction processing  
means starts readout of part of the image data of the  
contents corresponding to the selected reproduction  
start position from the memory.

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23. A reproducing apparatus comprising:

reproducing means for reproducing image data of  
a plurality of clips from a recording medium and  
writing the reproduced image data in a memory;

25 reproduction instruction means for instructing  
reproduction start of the image data;

reproduction processing means for reading out

the image data stored in the memory and outputting  
the image data as reproduced image data; and

controlling means for controlling the  
reproducing means in accordance with a predetermined  
5 reproducing condition so that the reproducing means  
decides a clip of the highest priority among the  
plurality of clips and reproduces the image data of a  
predetermined amount from a front end of the decided  
clip to write the image data of the predetermined  
10 amount in the memory, the controlling means  
controlling the reproduction processing means in  
response to the reproduction start instruction by the  
reproduction instruction means so that the  
reproduction processing means starts the readout of  
15 the image data of the predetermined amount of the  
decided clip from the memory.

24. An apparatus according to claim 23, further  
comprising changing means for changing arbitrarily  
20 the reproducing condition, wherein the controlling  
means newly decides the clip of the highest priority  
in accordance with the reproducing condition changed  
by the changing means.

25 25. An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein  
the controlling means further controls the  
reproducing means in response to the reproduction

start instruction so that the reproducing means starts the reproduction of the data after the image data of the predetermined amount in the decided clip.